



January 18, 2007

(Online at <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a27/enewsletter.htm>)

Governor Proposes Status-quo Budget

Last week Governor Schwarzenegger released his proposed 2007-2008 budget. It's a classic good news/bad news budget—and a reasonable start to a process that begins now and will hopefully end on time in June.

The governor has been talking about a new “post-partisan” era in Sacramento. With regard to his proposed budget, I think we can get there. But there are problems, most notably his proposed cuts to CalWORKS (the state's public assistance program), as well as increased higher education fees and diversion of over a billion dollars of transit money to other programs.

At the same time the governor proposes CalWORKS cuts that target children, he also proposes early repayment of debt to Wall Street bankers. If the choice is pre-paying debt to bankers or continuing vital services for California's kids, I'll choose the kids. [Read more.](#)

Read John's [press release](#), which includes links to the governor's proposed budget and the Budget Committee's initial analysis.

Laird-requested LAO Report on UC Growth

At the [request](#) of John Laird, the independent Legislative Analyst's Office conducted a [study](#) to evaluate and explore ways to improve the University of California's current long range development plan (LRDP) process.

The LAO has completed its report, which provides recommendations on University enrollment projections, public participation in long-range planning and the use of 'fair-share' agreements.

[John's press release](#)
[Story in the Santa Cruz Sentinel](#)

John in the District

1/19 Tri-County Economic Conference, Seaside

1/19 County of Santa Cruz Legislative Meeting, Soquel

1/20 Reproductive Rights Luncheon, Santa Cruz

1/26 City of Watsonville Legislative Meeting

2/2 San Jose State University Educator Advocacy Forum

2/2 State of the Valley Conference, San Jose

2/3 NAACP Annual Banquet, Santa Cruz

2/3 Annual UCSC Scholarship



Dinner, Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz County Office

701 Ocean Street, 318-B
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-425-1503 (tel)
831-425-2570 (fax)

Monterey/Santa Clara County Office

99 Pacific Street, 555D
Monterey, CA 93940
831-649-2832 (tel)
831-649-2935 (fax)
408-782-0647 (Santa Clara County Direct Line)

Capitol Office

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA
94249-0027
916-319-2027 (tel)
916-319-2127 (fax)

Listen to the Assembly Democratic [Weekly Radio Address](#), recorded by John Laird. Learn more about the [state budget](#), including the LAO's analysis.

John's Reaction to the Governor's Healthcare Plan

"The governor has painted a picture of the future for California's healthcare system, and he's shown how we can get there. I'm pleased he has embraced universal health coverage for ALL of California's children, as I proposed in December through AB 13.

The problem is the complex, interlocking and controversial pieces that he uses to build his plan. If you knock out one or two pieces of the plan, the whole thing may well fall apart. So, we're going to need to vet this proposal well and figure out how we can create a successful outcome for everyone.

Stories on the governor's proposal in the [Salinas Californian](#) and [San Jose/Silicon Valley Business Journal](#).

John's [Op-Ed](#) on universal children's health coverage.

Needle Exchange Legislation Introduced

Local needle exchange programs save lives, protect communities and result in significant savings for the taxpayer—this bill, AB 110, will help local agencies continue to provide access to these vital programs.

[Full press release](#)
[Story in the Bay Area Reporter](#)

Laird Levee Bill Marks 100th Anniversary of 1907 Sacramento Valley Flood

SACRAMENTO – Assemblymember John Laird today introduced AB 156, a bill which would direct the State Department of Water Resources to make myriad changes to Central Valley levee emergency preparedness and emergency response programs and planning. The bill makes significant improvements to management of a levee system inspired by a major flood in 1907 that inundated approximately 300,000 acres in the Sacramento Valley.

[Full press release](#)

If you're receiving this as a forwarded email and would like to receive regular Laird updates, please send an email with "Subscribe" in the subject line to Assemblymember.Laird-newsletter@assembly.ca.gov. If you would prefer to not receive email updates, please respond with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.